

REMARKS

In paragraph 2 of the final Action, claims 1-7 were withdrawn from further consideration. In paragraph 3 of the final Action, claim 8 was objected to. In paragraph 6 of the final Action, claims 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takada in view of Zumpano.

In view of the rejection and objection, claims 1-8 have been cancelled, and claim 11 have been amended in independent form. Claims 9 and 10 have been amended to depend from claim 11 now amended. Claim 11 does not introduce new issue and is patentable over the prior art references, as explained below. Therefore, claims 9 and 10 depending from claim 11 are allowable as well.

In Takada, an air bag 11 is attached to a steering wheel 3 to protect a driver. The air bag 11 includes stitched seams 4 for regulating the gas pressure on the steering wheel side. When the pressure of the air bag 11 exceeds the predetermined pressure, the thread seams 4 break or are deviated to allow the gas to escape from the air bag to reduce the pressure therein.

Takada discloses the air bag attached to the steering wheel, but there is no pressure sensor inside the air bag and harness associated therewith, as stated in paragraph 6 of the final Action. The thread seams are simply broken in the predetermined pressure. Since the pressure sensor is not disclosed or used in Takada, features of the invention are not disclosed or suggested by Takada.

In Zumpano, a restraint assembly includes inflatable members 22, 24 at upper front and rear sides of the occupant. The inflatable member 22 includes chambers A-F, and the inflatable member 24 includes chambers A-C. Each chamber is provided with a pressure sensor 49 located at a side opposite to the occupant 10, as shown in Fig. 2.

In the final Action, it was held that "Zumpano teaches the invention wherein a plurality of pressure sensors (49) mounted on

an inner surface of the rear portion of the airbag, the pressure sensors (49) detecting an inner pressure of the bag portion when the airbag is inflated..."

In Zumpano, the pressure sensors are mounted on the respective chambers for the inflatable members, but the pressure sensors in Zumpano are not attached to the airbag for the driver. Further, in the invention, the pressure sensor of the airbag is located outside the steering wheel.

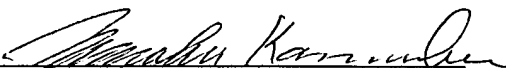
The pressure sensors are known in Zumpano, and the airbag attached to the steering wheel is known in Takada. Therefore, the pressure sensor in Zumpano can be attached to the air bag in Takada. However, it is not known the pressure sensor is located outside the steering wheel. Even if Takada and Zumpano are known, it is not obvious that the pressure sensor is located on the rear portion outside the steering wheel, as now defined in claim 11 of the invention.

Claims now pending in the application are not suggested by the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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